

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GERARD J. KARPIK	
Serial No.: To Be Assigned	
Filed: Herewith	
For: TRACK TENSIONING SYSTEM FOR A TRACKED VEHICLE	Docket No. 51867-301418

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV314492351US

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MARCH 15, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. 1.56, and in accordance with C.F.R. sections 1.97 *et. seq.*, the materials enclosed herewith are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly being of interest in connection with the above-identified patent application. Consideration of each of the documents listed on the attached 1449 form(s) is respectfully requested. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is construed to be, prior art to the present application. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, Applicants further request that a copy of the 1449 form(s), marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next Official Communication.


The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/214,004 entitled "Track Tensioning System For A Tracked Vehicle" (allowed), which claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 60/312,713 entitled "Track Tensioning System For A Tracked Vehicle", filed August 16, 2001 and U.S. Patent Application No. 60/314,519, entitled "Track Tensioning System For A Tracked Vehicle", filed August 22, 2002. In that the listed documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in the parent application, copies of those listed references are not enclosed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

No fee is deemed necessary for the entry of this Information Disclosure Statement.
Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account
No. 06-0029 and notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 15, 2004

GERARD J. KARPIK

By: 
Karl G. Schwappach, #65,786
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3901
612/766-7773

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

Complete if Known

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	GERARD J. KARPIK
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	51867-301418

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		2002/0171290 A1	11/21/02	Boyum	
		3,089,710	5/1963	Fiala	
		3,115,945	12/31/63	Dry et al.	
		3,527,505	9/8/70	Hetteen	
		3,623,563	11/1971	Gostomski	
		3,637,265	1/25/72	Valentine et al.	
		3,658,392	4/1972	Perreault et al.	
		3,711,164	1/16/73	Chaumont	
		3,721,308	3/20/73	Brandli et al.	
		3,727,709	4/1973	Newman	
		3,744,583	7/10/73	Bedard	
		3,788,412	1/1974	Vincent	
		3,879,092	4/1975	Rose	
		3,913,693	10/21/75	Hale et al.	
		3,913,694	10/21/75	Forsgren	
		3,933,213	1/1976	Trowbridge	
		3,944,005	3/1976	Tomita	
		3,966,181	6/1976	Lessard	
		4,057,916	11/1977	Roemer	
		4,222,453	9/1980	Fixsen et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		CA - 895747	3/1972	Heitean et al.		
		CA - 942802	2/1974	Perreault et al.		
		CA - 944001	3/1974	Chaumont		
		CA - 956674	10/1974	Newman		
		CA - 994395	8/1976	Vincent		
		CA - 1026807	2/1978	Forsgren		
		CA - 1029425	4/1978	Rose		
		FI - 850110	07/11/86			
		FI - 901451	9/24/91	Upola Eero Juhani		

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known	
	Application Number	To Be Assigned		
	Filing Date	Herewith		
	First Named Inventor	GERARD J. KARPIK		
	Group Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
Sheet	2	of	3	Attorney Docket Number
				51867-301418

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,337,958	7/1982	Witt et al.	
		4,407,386	10/1983	Yasui et al.	
		4,489,954	12/25/84	Yasui et al.	
		4,518,056	5/1985	Kobayashi	
		4,671,521	6/9/87	Talbot et al.	
		4,690,234	9/1/87	Takada	
		4,700,815	10/1987	Persicke et al.	
		4,699,229	10/13/87	Hirose et al.	
		4,987,965	1/21/91	Bouret	
		5,014,805	5/14/91	Uchida	
		5,029,664	7/9/91	Zulawski	
		5,203,424	4/20/93	Gogo et al.	
		5,265,692	11/1993	Mallette	
		5,370,198	12/6/94	Karpik	
		5,533,585	7/9/96	Kawano et al.	
		5,667,031	9/16/97	Karpik	
		5,692,579	12/2/97	Peppel et al.	
		5,727,643	3/17/98	Kawano et al.	
		5,829,545	11/3/98	Yamamoto et al.	
		5,881,834	3/16/99	Karpik	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		FR - 1035475	4/15/53	Delcourt		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

